To all in attendance,

Let me begin my saying how deeply saddened I am by the events in Newtown, Connecticut. I am also deeply saddened and concerned with the recent events that have begun to unfold in the wake of this terrible tragedy.

One of those concerns is the very nature of this taskforce and the division of it into three subgroups.

It is my feeling that gun violence, school security and mental health all need to be addressed here simultaneously as they all played a part in what recently happened in our great State. If believing that instituting gun bans, magazine bans and taxation on ammunition, to name some of the many proposed solutions, are to save us all from a similar tragedy occurring I think everyone involved in this task force is being misled.

The Supreme Court has upheld the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

The right to bear arms is fundamental to our liberty and freedom.

The statement "shall not be infringed" cannot be erased from it.

Bearing arms in the defense of my self, my family and my State is something no power in our country can possibly say I cannot do.

The only Bills I would entertain supporting are:

HB 5165

HB 5176

HB 5179

and HB 5269

All other proposed Bills I would be opposed to, as they would most definitely infringe upon my Constitutional Rights.

I encourage everyone attendance to please use this task force to come together to find reasonable solutions to the three subgroups in the order of their importance:

- 1) Mental Health, as the entire system is clearly broken and the human mind is the most dangerous weapon on the planet.
- 2) School Security, as our children are our most valuable people on the planet and should be safeguarded as such.
- 3) Gun Violence, as a criminal obtaining and misusing a firearm is the real issue, not the millions of law abiding gun owners who will be made to ultimately pay for their misdeeds.

Thank you for your time,

Erik Hansen Glastonbury, CT